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Question1: I am a 6th generation 28 year old crop farmer in northeast Pa.. I have a degree in crop management from The Ohio State University. I started farming on my own upon graduation. I started out by renting land. There has been little to no support for me to get started in farming. I looked into the young farmer loan, but the only farmers that program helps are ones who have bad credit or will not likely pay the loan back. The biggest issue is CREP. It is putting farmers out of business here. They are paying three times what the land is worth to farm and forcing farmers to either give up land they are presently farming or pay high land rent which they may not see a return on in an adverse year (which has been 5 of the last 8 in our area). I hear many people talking about how good the CREP is for the environment, but obviously these people are not farmers. They say it is saving erosion, but if there was no erosion to start with, how can it save erosion? I believe with the conservation practices we have available to us today (no-till, minimum till) that poor mananagement is to blame for erosion. I would like to invite anyone to look at CREP fields at the end of June. What you will find is nothing but weeds-canada thistle, sumac, multiflower rose, you name it, it is in the CREP fields, and the seeds are being distributed to the farmers field. Some of these seeds can stay in the soil for up to 40 years and still germinate, therefore the destruction is seen by my grandchildren. When I first heard about the program I thought it may serve a good purpose by leaving streambanks in sod. It was not long though until they enrolled the first whole farm into this program, and it was all downhill from there. It is clear that anyone who does this to a farm has no love for the land and their only concern is money. I do strongly believe in conservation, and practice it thoroughly on my farms with waterways, sod headlands, hay strips, and no-till farming. In my opinion the streambank program is a good idea, but putting perfectly good farmland into weed production will put american farmers out of business. Another flaw is the way the USDA gives nearly all of the money allotted to big farmers, mainly corn and soybean growers in the midwest. This is totally unfair to all other states, these guys can get twice the yield as most farms because they are blessed with the best soil, which is fine, but why should they get three times as much money per acre from gov. programs than others. We need to better distribute the money and not soley focus on the corn and bean farmers. If we truly want conservation there is nothing better for the soil than hay in a rotation. Why are hay farmers not recognized in the farm bills? In closing, things that would benefit young farmers and all farmers are the following: 1: Do away with the CREP program. 2: Be fair when distributing program money, do not give it all to a handful of people - level the playing field. 3: Include hay into the program. 4: Give incentives to farmers who are good stewards that are already conserving the land by using no-till, sod strips, etc. 5: A no interest or low interest loan would greatly help someone who is intrested in starting a farm.

Question2: Stop importing grain and cattle from other countries. It makes no sense to import when we have our own surplus.

Question3: Give a certain dollar amount per acre for corn, soybeans, hay, wheat, barley, speltz, oats, cotton, peanuts.

Question4: Support biodiesel, this is a win-win situation. Biodiesel should be the sole source of fuel by 2010, it will have a tremendous impact on the economy and the environment. Support strip farming, no-till, minimum till, and waterways, but be sure to reward the good farmers who are already doing this. Support streambank programs.

Question5: Provide funding for one ethanol or soydiesel plant for each county in ag states. Try to distribute the money to farmers, not landowners (there is a difference) because for every dollar you give a farmer, he will put two into the economy whereas landowners are more likely to not spend the money.

Question6: There should be support for research of organic spray or weed control. We need to let other countries know how high our standards are and protect that reputation. Ethanol and soydiesel.